

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the non-final Office Action mailed July 7, 2005. The Examiner's comments in that Office Action have been carefully considered.

Applicant respectfully requests a two-month extension in order to extend the due date for response in this matter to December 7, 2005. The extension fee of \$450.00 may be charged to our account no. 10-0100.

The original title of this invention, "Method for Carrying Out a Blind Handover in an Intersystem and Interfrequency Handover in a Mobile Communication System," has been mistakenly printed in a number of ways in succeeding documents. Applicant respectfully requests that the U.S. Patent Office correct the title in those documents and use the title given in this Amendment ("Method for Carrying Out a Blind Handover in an Intersystem and Interfrequency Handover in Mobile Communication Systems") in all future documents, especially in any patents to issue on this application.

The Examiner has objected to the Information Disclosure Statement filed April 11, 2005, because Citation (I) (EPO 0 900 319 A1 for a "Locating method for mobile radio systems") was not sufficiently legible. We enclose another, clear copy of this reference.

Claims 1, 2, 7, 10 and 11 have been rejected as being obvious on the basis of U.S. Patent 6,686, 853 to Hokkanen in view of or when combined with U.S. Patent No. 6,154,657 to Grubeck et al., for reasons set forth in paragraph 3 starting on page 2 of the Office Action. The remaining claims have similarly been rejected as being obvious on the same combination of Hokkanen and Grubeck, in view of or when further combined with additional secondary references, for reasons set forth in paragraphs 4-7 of the Office Action. For reasons that are more fully set forth below, applicant respectfully traverses these prior art rejections, particularly in light of the amendments to claim 1, and respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw of these rejections.

Although there are differences between the limitations already listed in claim 1 and the above-mentioned prior art references, we have amended claim 1 to more distinctly claim and specifically describe the subject matter of the invention.

According to the subject application, the procedure for carrying out a blind handover is based on a measurement of the propagation times of the radio signals from which the current location of the mobile station is then determined. The measurement of signal propagation times is, however, a procedure that is usually not carried out by a mobile station. Only in exceptional cases is this done: for example, if the received signal levels of the base stations are very low. In

such a case, measurement of propagation times would be initiated in the mobile station.

However, even if measurement of the propagation times is, in fact, not necessary due to current good receiving level conditions of the supplying base stations, the mobile station must be required to accomplish this measurement when performing a blind handover, according to the subject matter of the invention. Otherwise the method according to the invention will not function.

In most cases there are good base-station receiving-level conditions during a blind handover. A blind handover procedure, in contrast to a conventional handover procedure, is not accomplished by means of insufficient signal level conditions received from the base stations but due to a change of the supplying mobile communication system – e.g., a change from a first UMTS-type to a second GSM-type mobile communication system. According to the invention, the measurement of the propagation times in the mobile station is initiated by the communication to the mobile station of very high radio signal level threshold values, which force a propagation times measurement in the terminal, or by the fact that the supplying level threshold values are permanently set such that the propagation time measurements are accomplished in a mandatory way. This is confirmed in the specification of the subject application, in the last paragraph on page 3.

The enforced measurement of propagation times in the mobile station is an important point in the present invention, and this elements is neither known nor obvious in the prior art references.

While Hokkanen discloses a method and device for performing handover using location information, it does not teach the mandatory measurement of a position prior to or during the handoff operations. Grubeck indicates that such measurements are optional or desirable only under certain circumstances, stating in column1, at lines 13-14, that a number of applications “could use information about the current location of mobile stations in the cellular telephone system.” The invention of Grubeck may be used, for example, in a GSM system to determine the distance between the mobile station and each of the base stations. In column 4, line 8, the patentee again reinforces the fact that the invention can be used “if one wants to determine the position of a mobile station.” However, in the subject invention, the handover operation from one mobile telecommunication system to another requires that such distance measurements be made in order to effect consistent and reliable handover operations. This is now more clearly reflected in amended claim 1.

It is believed, accordingly, that amended claim 1 clearly and patentably distinguishes over the Hokkanen and Grubeck et al. patents because there is nothing in these patents that requires or

suggests the method of the invention for handover operations between different mobile telecommunication systems in which the distance measurements are mandatory and prerequisite to proper, effective and reliable handover operations.

The remaining claims depend directly or indirectly on presumably allowable amended claim 1 and should be allowed with the allowance thereof. Early allowance and issuance is, accordingly, respectfully solicited.

Applicant hereby petitions that any and all extensions of time of the term necessary to render this response timely be granted. COSTS FOR SUCH EXTENSION(S) AND/OR ANY OTHER FEE DUE WITH THIS FEE DUE WITH THIS PAPER THAT ARE NOT FULLY COVERED BY AN ENCLOSED CHECK MAY BE CHARGED TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT #10-0100.

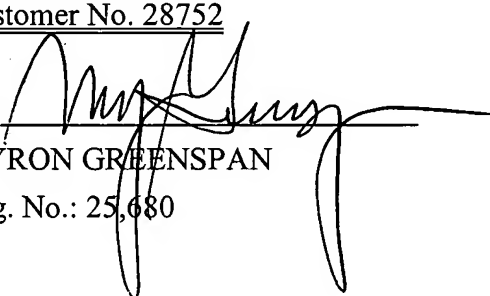
Date: December 6, 2005

Lackebach Siegel LLP
One Chase Road
Scarsdale, NY 10583
Telephone: 914 723 4300

MG/as

Respectfully submitted,

LACKENBACH SIEGEL LLP
Attorneys for Applicant(s)
Customer No. 28752

By: 
MYRON GREENSPAN
Reg. No.: 25,680